

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

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R 301200Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1223

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 18393

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SS, FR

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO PARIS

REF: RABAT 3550

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AFRICA DE WARREN TOLD US JULY 29 THAT QUAI HAD NOT YET LEARNED DETAILS OF PRIME MINISTER OSMAN'S CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD SINCE THE TWO MEN MET ALONE JULY 26. HE HOPED TO HAVE A REPORT ON IT AFTER FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES SEES GISCARD THIS WEEK. DE WARREN SAID HE NONETHELESS FELT CONFIDENT IN ASSERTING THAT OSMAN'S PRESS STATEMENTS IMPLYING THAT GISCARD SAID FRANCE SUPPORTS THE MOROCCAN POSITION ON THE SPANISH SAHARA ARE GROSS DISTORTIONS. HE IMAGINED THAT GISCARD HAD MADE POLITE, NONCOMMITTAL REPLIES TO THE MOROCCAN AND THAT THE LATTER HAD EITHER READ HIS OWN HOPES INTO THEM OR PURPOSEFULLY MISINTERPRETED THE PRESIDENT. DE WARREN
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NOTED THAT IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, THE FRENCH CAN

HARDLY DENY THE INCORRECT PRESS REPORTS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTIONS, DE WARREN TICKED OFF SOME OF THE OBVIOUS REASONS FOR HASSAN'S LAUNCHING HIS CAMPAIGN TO RECOVER THE SPANISH SAHARA: DESIRE TO RALLY DOMESTIC SUPPORT, INCLUDING THAT OF THE OPPOSITION, BEHIND A POPULAR FOREIGN ISSUE; WISH TO GIVE THE TROOPS, ESPECIALLY THOSE RETURNING FROM SYRIA, SOME GOAL AND THUS TAKE THEIR MINDS OFF PLOTS AGAINST HIMSELF; AN EQUALLY STRONG DESIRE TO SEND THE ARMY FAR FROM THE CAPITOL TO LESSEN ITS MISCHIEF-MAKING POTENTIAL; AND THE HOPE OF CAPITALIZING ON THE RABAT ARAB SUMMIT MEETING. DE WARREN THOUGHT THE PURPOSE OF MOVING MOROCCAN TROOPS TO THE FRONTIERS OF SPANISH-HELD TERRITORIES WAS INTIMIDATION AND DOUBTED THAT HASSAN INTENDS TO SEND REGULAR FORCES INTO ACTION. HE NOTED THAT THE SPANISH, TOO, HAVE REENFORCED THEIR MILITARY STRENGTH IN THE AREA. DE WARREN OBSERVED THAT HASSAN'S IMPRESSIONS OF THE INTERNAL SPANISH POLITICAL SCENE HAD NOT PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT PART IN HIS DECISION TO MOUNT A DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE BUT SAID THAT SUBSEQUENT POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES IN SPAIN HAD BEEN HELPFUL TO THE KING'S CAUSE. DE WARREN BELIEVES THAT TUNISIA IS THE ONLY COUNTRY TO HAVE GIVEN MOROCCO EVEN MINIMALLY SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL BACKING AND IMPLIED THAT SUCH WAS TO BE EXPECTED. WHILE TENDING TO THINK THAT HASSAN WILL NOT CARRY THE QUESTION TOO FAR, DE WARREN REMARKED THAT DECLARATIONS SUCH AS HASSAN'S STATEMENT TO THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR THAT "THE CAUSE IS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO SACRIFICE HUMAN LIVES" SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED.

3. DE WARREN CONFIRMED SAUVAGNARGUES' ONE-DAY VISIT TO RABAT AUGUST 1. HE INDICATED THAT SOME PROGRESS IS BEING MADE ON THE CONTENTIEUX. ON LAND INDEMNIFICATION, HE SAID MOROCCO PROPOSED A TWO-DIGIT DRACHMA FIGURE PER HECTARE AND THAT THE FRENCH COUNTERED WITH THE REQUEST THAT THE MOROCCANS ADVANCE A THREE DIGIT FIGURE. HE COMMENTED THAT THERE OUGHT TO BE A MINIMUM OF SUBSTANCE TO THE SYMBOLIC PAYMENT THE FRENCH WILL

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PROBABLY ACCEPT.THE FRENCH HAVE SOME HOPE THAT THIS MATTER WILL BE SETTLED DURING THE FONMIN'S VISIT.
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